

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 03145 021645Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00 EB-08 HA-05 /090 W
-----034085 031430Z /40

R 021610Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6874
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO

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BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, CY
SUBJECT: LYSSARIDES ANNOUNCES PROGRAM FOR ELECTORAL COOPERATION

SUMMARY. ON DEC 1 EDEK (SOCIALIST PARTY) CHAIRMAN
VASSOS LYSSARIDES BECAME THIRD CYPRIOT POLITICAL
LEADER TO ANNOUNCE HIS INTENTIONS REGARDING THE
FEBRUARY 1978 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. IN THIS CASE
LYSSARIDES SAID HE WOULD NOT STAND FOR ELECTION IF
KYPRIOANOU, THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DP) AND COMMUNIST AKEL
ACCEPT EDEK'S "MINIMUM PROGRAM" AS A BASIS FOR
A UNITED FRONT PLATFORM. WE THINK LYSSARIDES MOVE IS
TACTICAL AND DESIGNED TO SECURE MAXIMUM INFLUENCE
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PAGE 02 NICOSI 03145 021645Z

FOR EDEK IN POST-ELECTION GOC. END SUMMARY.

1. LYSSARIDES HELD PRESS CONFERENCE DEC 1 TO
ANNOUNCE EDEK'S "MINIMUM PROGRAM" FOR COOPERATION WITH
AKEL (COMMUNIST) AND DP IN THE FEB. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.
LYSSARIDES SAID IF AGREEMENT IS NOT REACHED ON A
MINIMUM PROGRAM, EDEK WILL CONTEST THE ELECTION

ON ITS OWN. HOWEVER, LYSSARIDES INDICATED THAT EDEK IS WILLING TO ENTER INTO A DIALOGUE WITH THE OTHER TWO PARTIES, FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT PROGRAM, I.E. EDEK'S "MINIMUM PROGRAM" IS NEGOTIABLE. AMONG THE PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS ANNOUNCED BY LYSSARIDES ARE:

- INDEPENDENT, UNITARY, NON-ALIGNED CYPRUS WITHOUT FOREIGN ARMIES, BASES OR MILITARY PRESENCE.
- RIGHT OF REFUGEES TO RETURN HOME, FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, SUBSTANTIVE POWERS FOR CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.
- NATIONALIZATION OF BANKS AND THEIR MERGER INTO A SINGLE STATE BANKING ORGANIZATION; A STATE INSURANCE ORGANIZATION AND DEOCRATIZATION OF THE COOPERATIVES MOVEMENT.
- ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATE RENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY AND A MINISTRY OF CARE FOR REFUGEES.
- APPOINTMENT TO THE CABINET, STATE AND SEMI-STATE ORGANIZATIONS OF "PERSONS OF A COMMON TRUST AND ACCEPTANCE."

2. COMMUNIST AKEL, THROUGH ITS NEWSPAPER HARAVGHI, ATTEMPTED TO BEAT LYSSARIDES TO THE MARK NOV. 30 BY PUBLISHING A LIST OF "GENERALLY ACCEPTED" POSITIONS FOR A COMMON PROGRAM. AKEL'S STATEMENT WAS MORE MODERATE THAN THAT OF EDEK AND STRESSED THE NEED FOR A CYPRUS SOLUTION BASED ON UN FRAMEWORK AND RESOLUTIONS, GREEK-CYPRIOI PROPOSALS IN VIENNA AND FURTHER INTERNATIONALIZATION.

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PAGE 03 NICOSI 03145 021645Z

3. COMMENT. WE BELIEVE LYSSARIDES IS TRYING TO ASSURE MAXIMUM INFLUENCE FOR EDEK. IT APPEARS HE IS PREPARED TO SACRIFICE ELEMENTS OF HIS PROGRAM WHICH ARE NOT PALATABLE TO KYPRIANOU AND THE DP; I.E. NATIONALIZATION OF BANKS, RATHER THAN CONTEST AKEL-BACKED KYPRIANOU FOR THE PRESIDENCY. HOWEVER, EDEK'S BOTTOM LINE REQUIREMENT FOR CONTINUED COOPERATION IS PROBABLY SOME FORM OF VETO RIGHTS ON CABINET AND GOVERNMENT APPORINMENTS. END COMMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), PARTY LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NICOSI03145
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770449-0413
Format: TEL
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197712100/aaaadgue.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d5eb20fb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 104098
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LYSSARIDES ANNOUNCES PROGRAM FOR ELECTORAL COOPERATION SUMMARY. ON DEC 1 EDEK (SOCIALIST PARTY) CHAIRMAN VASSOS LYSSARIDES BECAME THIRD CYPRIOT POLI TICAL
TAGS: PGOV, CY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d5eb20fb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009